



Government of Western Australia
Department of Regional Development and Lands



RAC members are happier

PASTORALIST FENCING WORKING GROUP – BULLETIN

February 2012

Report ready for the Minister: On 7 February, the Pastoral Fencing Working Group met to finalise the report to the Minister.

The final review ensured appropriate attention was provided to key items of the report and concluded with representatives of each of the core organisations signing the report as a set of aligned recommendations for fencing main roads in pastoral regions of Western Australia.

Special thanks goes to Leanne Corker (PLB) and Mal Shervill (WALGA) for their peer review prior to the final meeting.



Working Group Report Signing – 7 February 2012

Front row L->R; M Shervill (WALGA), M Siddiqui (MRWA), R Gillam (PGA), K Eringa (RDL), K Gillen (DEC).

Back row L->R; L Corker (PLB), J Baker (MRWA), M Cammack (MRWA), I Randles (PGA), D De Rossi (MRWA Consultant), A Still (RAC), D Steadman (PGA)

The report is the culmination of nine months of stakeholder engagement across the core members. The report begins with a two page *Executive Summary*, listing the six recommendations, findings of the working group and potential solutions to identified hotspot areas.

Section 2 outlines the objective of the report and the areas of examination by the Working Group.

Section 3 details of the Working Group and how the members have worked collaboratively to achieve an aligned position within the group.

Background to the fencing issue is covered in Section 4. This includes an outline of Main Roads WA Operational Guideline 81 titled Fencing Road Reserves on Highways & Main Roads in Pastoral Areas, the Good Neighbour

Policy adopted by the Department of Environment and Conservation, fencing policies in other jurisdictions, updated fencing costs and the legislative framework in Australia.

Section 5 contains the data analysis performed on the three data sets, Fence condition data, Pastoralist Survey data and the last 5 years of Police Crash data. The relationship between crash sites and fence locations is provided for each of the Pastoral regions identified.

Stakeholder input from members of the Working Group, is detailed in Section 6. Section 7 outlines the potential solutions related road, stock and interface management for consideration in identified hot spots areas.

The report concludes with six recommendations in Section 8.

October Workshop: In October 2011, the PFWG held a workshop at Steelo's in East Perth. The workshop gave each of the members the opportunity to express their organisation's view points and position formed so far in the consultation. In addition to the core working group members, representatives from the Office of Road Safety and Department of Transport provided further industry information. The workshop allowed for lively debate by the members and concluded with the development of a framework of recommendations to be made to the Honourable Minister for Transport.

FEEDBACK FROM STAKEHOLDERS:

Mr Rob Gillam, PGA President (PGA):

"The PGA welcomed the opportunity of working in a constructive and productive partnership with the State Government in order to produce a final document which not only protects and recognises the interests of the pastoral industry, but will greatly improve road safety in the pastoral rangelands. I would also like to acknowledge the contributions of the pastoral members of the working group, Misters Pj Hall of WR Carpenter Agricultural Group and David Steadman of the PGA as well as Mrs Leanne Corker, Chair of the PLB."

"We look forward to the opportunity to participate on the advisory committee."

Mr Mal Shervill, Policy Officer Road Safety (WALGA):

"The Working Party consisted of a diverse group of people all committed to making travelling on the WA road network in pastoral areas safer. Working Group members were passionate in representing their respective sectors while thoughtfully considering the views of others. Recognising the threat stock on roads presents to the travelling public in pastoral areas of WA, the Working Group carefully considered all available data, information and ideas to make informed decisions and reach logical conclusions. In the spirit of cooperation, the Working Group has produced a balanced and realistic report for Government.

Mrs Leanne Corker, Chair of the Pastoral Lands Board (PLB):

"I have enjoyed the opportunity to participate on the PFWG and am pleased with our final report and recommendations. I'd like to thank Main Roads for their professional, inclusive facilitation and to thank all the members of the working group for their contribution."

Mr Kelly Gillen, Assistant Director Regional Services, (DEC):

"Main Roads have led the working group through a sound process to which all members have contributed and this has been supported by good data and analysis. I'm confident that the recommendations of the report, based around an ongoing advisory committee and good communication should ensure an effective means of dealing with issues raised in the report."

Thank you to all: Main Roads WA would like to extend their thanks to all the members of the Working Group and contributors to the final report. The success of this process was due to the professional and personal commitment made by the group to work towards an aligned outcome.

- Mohammad Siddiqui



All smiles at the report signing between Leanne Corker (PLB), Mohammad Siddiqui (MRWA) and Rob Gillam (PGA).

About the Pastoral Fencing Working Group: Formed in May 2010, the Working Group (WG) comprising representatives from MRWA, PGA, Pastoral Lands Board/Regional Development, WALGA, RAC, Department of Environment & Conservation. The group are supported by corresponding members representing other stakeholders (AMEC, HMT Office, Office of Road Safety, WA Police, FESA; and ICWA).

WG Purpose: Review of current road reserve fencing responsibilities, legislative requirements, policies and management practices aimed at improving Road Safety in pastoral regions and make recommendation to government on strategies and actions for improved effectiveness and outcomes.

WG Objectives: To understand the safety performance and outcomes achieved from fencing;

- to discuss and agree on the requirements of the fencing road reserves in pastoral areas;
- to explore supplementary and alternative approaches to fencing
- to examine and explore options for the provision and maintenance of fencing road reserves in pastoral regions; and
- by end of December 2011, report to the Hon Minister for Transport with recommendations.